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Spanish scientific journals on psychology (II): editorial quality, visibility, internationality and editors attitude towards open access*

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Abstract

This paper aims to present the situation of Spanish Psychology journals with regard to certain quality parameters obtained from two Spanish journal evaluation systems (*RESH* and *DICE*), *Latindex* and others.

First of all, the publishing profile is analyzed in relation to the publication frequency compliance and other international standards for scientific publications. In addition, the level of international dissemination of Spanish Psychology journals in international databases is also examined, as a reflection of its quality and the interest that such a journal provokes in the scientific community. The best ten Spanish journals are identified according to the parameters considered in *DICE*: compliance with the publication frequency established, variety of institutions that contribute articles to the journal (contribution openness), variety of institutions represented at the editorial board (editorial board openness), if it has a peer review system, the number of *Latindex* criteria that the journal fulfils and its level of presence in international databases. Finally, editors' attitude towards online journals and Open Access as well as the internationality of editorial boards and authorship are analysed.

Some results: a) most journals follow international publishing conventions and watch for the timeliness of publication; b) a third of the journals are well represented in international databases; c) taking into account six quality criteria, there are 25-30 high level or competitive journals; d) a cautious attitude towards OA is observed in Spanish Psychology journals; e) according to the "internationality" of Psychology as a scientific domain, journals must make an effort to include foreign members in their advisory or scientific boards in order to attract papers from other countries. Around 20 journals have good levels of foreign authors and advisors.

Key words: psychology; scientific communication; information dissemination; databases; journals; evaluation; open access; online publishing; Spain

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Introduction

The Scientific Publications Evaluation Group (EPUC) of the Center for Human and Social Sciences (CCHS) which is an institute belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) evaluates on a continuous basis about 1.600 current scientific journals in all areas of Social and Human Sciences. This task is possible thanks to the financial support that the group receives, firstly, from the funds assigned to research by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science and, secondly, from the annual agreement signed with the ANECA, the Spanish agency responsible for evaluating university lecturers' CVs in order to qualify them to teach. These agreements allow EPUC to produce the DICE website (<http://dice.cindoc.csic.es>), which is the tool used by the ANECA to examine the quality of the publications from the teachers undergoing evaluation. EPUC is also responsible for the RESH website (<http://resh.cindoc.csic.es>), which incorporates other quality indicators such as the rating of journals provided by researchers (indirect indicator of content quality), and the impact of publications.

This paper aims to present the situation of Spanish Psychology journals with regard to certain quality parameters (more are analyzed in RESH and DICE). Those interested in further information about the methodological aspects that are presented can access the section "Methodology" in the websites provided above, as well as works cited in the reference section at the end of this paper.

1. Publishing profile: publication frequency compliance and other international standards for scientific publications

The evaluation studies of Psychology journals has been more frequent and varied than the studies carried out in other areas of Social Sciences (Alcain y Roman, 2005, p. 180-181). Also, it must be remarked that, traditionally, Spanish Psychology journals, have complied better with the standards on the presentation of publications than journals in other areas. Even though this is generally true, this behaviour applies mostly to a limited group of journals, as the proliferation of new publications –in this area and others– has favoured the absence of professional editorial management in many journals, which means that many of them end up by not fulfilling the editorial conventions.

With respect to publication frequency, 42 (29%) of the 136 journals included in DICE under the heading of Psychology do not comply with the declared publication frequency established by the journal itself. This means that, although most journals fulfil this formal aspect, an effort should be made by editors in order to improve this aspect which affects, among other things, the decision of an international database to take a journal into consideration or not for its indexing. The method to judge if a publication complies or not with the publication frequency established is to check if each new issue of the journal arrives, at the latest, in the period to which it should have arrived. For instance, a quarterly journal whose first issue of the year should not go out later than the end of March, must be received between April and June, to be considered as fulfilling its publication frequency, given that there must be allowance for the time consumption in its distribution, not in its publication. Considering the fulfilment of publication frequency by subject subcategories, the following results are obtained:

Table 1.
Fulfilment of publication frequency by subject subcategories

Subject subcategory	Compliance	Not Compliance	Total journals
Psychobiology	1	2	3
Psychology	22	10	32
Basic Psychology	5	0	5
Evolutionary Psychology and Psychology of Education	9	6	15
Social Psychology	7	2	9
Psychiatry	16	5	21
	60	25	85

Figure 1.
Fulfilment of publication frequency by Spanish Psychology journals

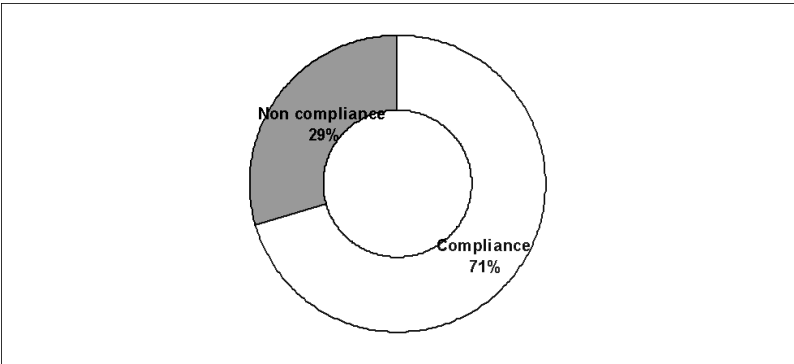
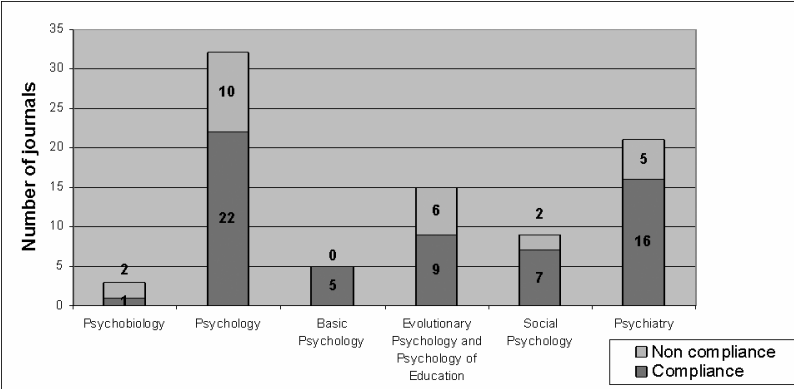


Figure 2.
Level of fulfilment of publication frequency by subject subcategories



There are a wide number of formal parameters for serials presentation. Evaluating every single one for the group of journals analysed could result in a tedious description. That is the reason why it has been considered appropriate to refer to the Latindex criteria with which they comply, in order to provide a general idea of the fulfilment of these standards by Spanish Psychology journals. *Latindex* (<http://www.latindex.org>) is a directory of scientific journals from Latin America, Spain⁴ and Portugal that includes all subject areas. The system has established 33 quality criteria applied to printed journals and 36 to electronic journals. Many of these criteria are related to formal issues such as inclusion of keywords and abstracts in two languages for each article of the journal, presentation of the institutional affiliation of authors and members of the editorial board, presence of a table of content, bibliographical heading on each page of the article, etc. Others are related to publication management: if the journal uses an reviewing system, if it has external referees or if databases include a certain publication. The complete list of indicators can be consulted at http://www.latindex.unam.mx/latindex/busquedas1/english/revistas_elec.html.

The number of *Latindex* criteria fulfilled by a journal gives an idea of its compliance with international standards. 90 of the 136 Spanish Psychology journals meet between 25 and 33/36 *Latindex* quality criteria, which gives entry to the “*Latindex Catalogue*”, a type of selective directory that includes only those journals that comply with a high number of criteria. In other words, 33.82% of the journals need to improve some formal aspects regulated by international standards. Nevertheless, the fact that most of them comply with these relevant requirements has to be taken as very positive when considered for inclusion in databases, information systems and, of course, evaluation systems of scientific activity in each country.

2. Level of international dissemination of Spanish Psychology journals in international databases

The fact that a journal is included in an international database reflects its quality and the interest that such a journal provokes in the scientific community. We are not talking here about databases whose aim is to collect the maximum quantity of publications, but about those that follow a well defined selection policy, and therefore, based on established quality filters.

When a Psychology journal is indexed by *Psyclit*, for example, it is an indication of: a) the quality of the publication, otherwise it would not have passed the quality control carried out by the database producers; b) the interest in the subject of the journal for the scientific community; c) the visibility that the journal has or can attain for being included in this database. Visibility implies the possibility that the journal could be read by specialists in other countries, and consequently, an increase in the possibility of being cited.

For all these factors, being included in databases is fundamental for a journal, and editors must make an effort and request the inclusion of their journals in databases, and submit them to the respective evaluation processes.

In the DICE system, the presence of journals in a group of specialized and multidisciplinary databases is analyzed, providing those databases are selective or, in other words, providing they evaluate journals before including them in their systems.

⁴ The research group EPUC is the representative of Latindex in Spain, feeding the system with all the information and indicators on Spanish journals.

33.82% of journals (45 of 136) included in DICE are not present in any database. This negative circumstance is usually related to the lack of compliance with other quality criteria established by the system. Another 33 journals are only present in the ISOC database (which collects Spanish scientific literature). This means that only 43% of the journals (58 titles) have developed a successful and more complete strategy to be present in various selective and international databases.

The table below shows the coverage that international databases give Spanish journals.

Table 2.
Number of Spanish Psychology journals in international databases

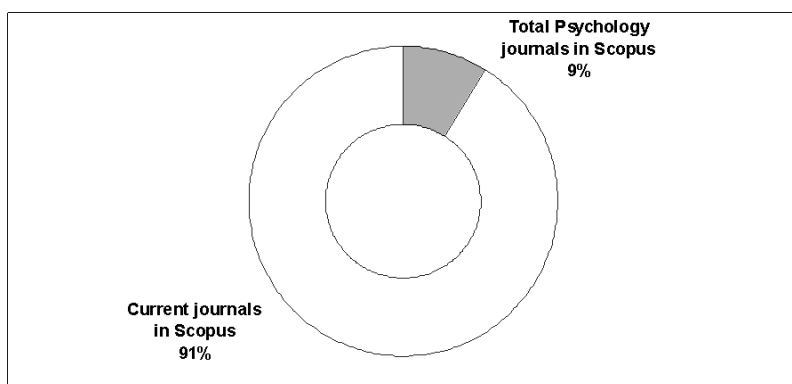
Database	No. of Spanish journals
Multidisciplinary	
Academic Search Premier	2
Academic Search Complete	13
Current Contents	5
Social Sciences Citation Index	6
International Bibliography of Social Sciences	1
Scopus	11
Francis	3
Redalyc	10
DOAJ	5
Specialized	
Psyclit	43
Embase	10
Medline	2
Addiction Abstracts	1
Heracles	1

It is notable that 43 journals are included in *Psyclit*, the most prestigious database in the area. It seems clear that when editors assume the importance of making themselves known through bibliographical databases, they are well aware of which one is the reference in their area. Also, it is relevant to keep in mind that *Psyclit* is quite demanding regarding the journals that it selects for indexing, as it applies a set of quality criteria that makes it very selective:

- Have a peer review system or other reviewing system
- Have an identifiable editorial board
- Contain original presentations
- Comply with the established publication frequency
- Include all the basic bibliographic elements
- For electronic journals, identify a file where copies are maintained
- Include title, abstract and keywords in English
- Demonstrate the institutional diversity of reviewers and authors (non endogamous organizations)
- Contain articles supported on empirical data or other means

It is also interesting to give some attention to the six journals included in SSCI. Even if these do not represent a high number compared to the total of Spanish journals in the area, it is a noteworthy quantity if compared with the number of Spanish journals from other areas collected by SSCI. As known, to succeed in placing a journal in *Thomson Reuters* databases is a difficult task which forces editors to undergo an evaluation process based on very stringent indicators (Testa, 2006). On a similar level is *Scopus*, which includes 11 Spanish Psychology journals.

Figure 3.
Psychology journals in Scopus compared to other thematic areas



To sum up, as it can be verified in DICE, journals which have good dissemination, measured by their presence in international databases, usually comply with the quality parameters, which allows both variables to be correlated.

3. The best journals according to a global evaluation

Assuming that the quality of a scientific journal is the result of a collection of characteristics and not of a sole indicator⁵, a list of publications that comply positively with all the quality criteria established for the DICE system of evaluation can be obtained. That is, comply with the publication frequency established, variety of institutions that contribute articles to the journal (contribution openness), variety of institutions represented at the editorial board (editorial board openness), if it has a revision system by experts, the number of *Latindex* criteria that the journal fulfils and its level of presence in international databases. It must be pointed out that the system excludes impact indicators, as well as the evaluation that experts make of the journals in their areas. The reason for this exclusion is that the agency for which EPUC works most directly (ANECA) considers that both criteria are subjective and “introduce disturbance” in the evaluation of journals. Nevertheless, both parameters are calculated and included in the RESH system.

Taking into account the total DICE criteria, the best Spanish Psychology journals would be:

⁵ This has been the philosophy with which this research group has been working with for the last twelve years and which has motivated the methodologies applied in both RESH and DICE, as well as in *Latindex*.

Table 3.
The best Spanish journals according to a global evaluation (DICE)

Journal title	Starting year	Timeliness of publication	Foreign members in Editorial Board*	External authors contributions**	Peer review	N° of Latindex criteria	International databases
Revista de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología	1986-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	33	PSYCLIT; EMBASE; ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE; ISOC
Revista de Psicología del Trabajo y de las Organizaciones	1996-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	33	PSYCLIT; ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE; ISOC
Apuntes de Psicología	1983-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	32	PSYCLIT; ISOC
Ansiedad y Estrés	1994-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	32	PSYCLIT; ISOC
Archivos de Psiquiatría	2000-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	32	EMBASE; PSYCLIT; SCOPUS; ISOC
Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica = International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	2001-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	32	RED ALYC; ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE; ISOC
Infancia y Aprendizaje	1977-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31	FRANCIS; IRESIE; PIO; PSYCLIT; ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE; ISOC; SSCI
Revista de Psicología Social	1985-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31	PSYCLIT; ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER; ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE; ISOC
Psicología Conductual	1993-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31	CC; EMBASE; PSYCLIT; SCOPUS; ISOC
International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology	2004-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31	PSYCLIT; RED ALYC; SSCI; CC; ISOC

*Complies with this criterion when at least a third of the members of their Editorial Board belong to different institutions other than the organisation that publishes the journal.
**At least 50% are from authors whose work institutions do not belong to the organisation that publishes the journal.

In addition to the journals that are considered the best globally because they comply with all the established quality indicators in our system, there are approximately another twenty publications that are very close to the highest quality. That is, they fulfil most of the parameters except for one. For example, *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría*, *Anales de Psicología*, *Cognitiva*, *Revista de Historia de la Psicología*, *Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica*, *Revista Galego-Portuguesa de Psicología e Educación*, *The Spanish Journal of Psychology* only lack having more open editorial boards, or in other words, do not have editorial boards that include members from institutions different from the institution responsible for the publication.

The absence of a peer review system, required for any scientific journal, but whose validity is questioned in some areas of knowledge, is found in the following journals: *Anuario de Psicología Jurídica*, *Clínica y Salud*, *Revista de Psicología del Deporte*, *Adicciones*, *Revista de Sociodrogalcohol*, *Psicología Educativa*, *Folia Neuropsiquiátrica del Sur y Este de España*, *Psicológica* (both versions) and *Psicología Política*.

It is worth mentioning the case of *Psicothema*, a prestigious journal included in SSCI and which still does not appear in our list of top journals. It is a publication that does not use the peer review system, considering it invalid for its field. Nevertheless, as it presents alternative evaluation system and is a highly cited and appreciated journal, it enjoys unquestionable international recognition. In the DICE system, which only considers the existence or non existence of peer review and no other possible evaluation systems, this journal obtains another negative result as an indicator: its editorial board is not composed of enough institutions distinct from the publisher institution (University of Oviedo). To compensate for these negative results, it must be remarked that in the survey carried out a few years ago among Spanish lecturers to evaluate the quality of Psychology journals, *Psicothema* was “considered among the best in all areas of knowledge studied” (Alcain y Román, 2005, p. 188).

In conclusion, it can be mentioned that 26/27 current journals of the 136 journals included in DICE, could be (some already are) highly competitive in international publishing, considering the fulfilment of the established parameters as well as the international character of the discipline, which makes the research results in one country valid and interesting for any other.

4. Commitment for electronic publication and open access

Nowadays, 70% of Spanish journals of the area studied have some type of electronic version, offering either just their tables of contents or full text, and either by payment or free of charge.

Figure 4.
Spanish Psychology journals: type of publication

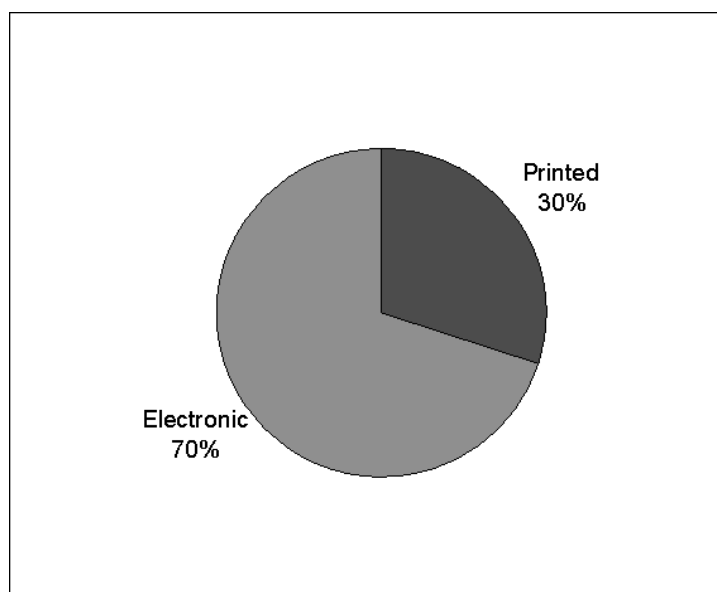
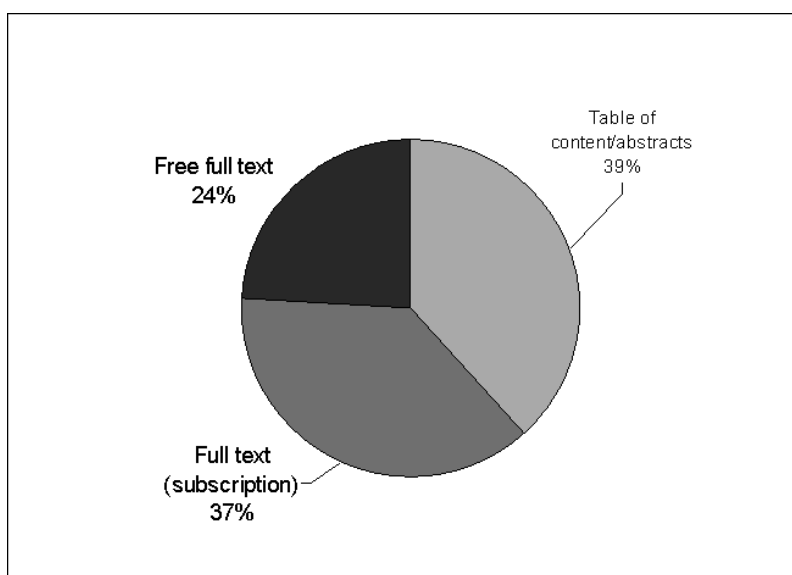


Figure 5.
Spanish Psychology journals: type of content on the web



Although the number of journals with an electronic version is increasing, in Psychology (as in other areas), their position with regard to the Open Access (OA) movement, could be described as very cautious. Among the 26 journals considered as the best, and mentioned in the section above, only 9 offer free access to their full text, but all of them have printing and reproduction rights transferred from authors, behaviour quite far from what has been called OA “platinum route” (Melero, 2008). On the other hand, there are other publications that, without fulfilling so many quality criteria, offer free access to their texts, and also have made an effort to be included in directories and digital journal libraries that promote OA. In order to have a better view of the tendency of Spanish journals with regard to OA, three sources have been specifically explored: *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ), *Open Science Directory* (OSD) and *Redalyc*. The following table summarises all these titles.

Table 4.
Presence of journals in Open Access products: different attitudes

Journal	DOAJ	OSD	REDALYC
Adicciones. Revista de Sociodrogalcohol	No	No	No
Anales de Psicología	Yes	Yes	Yes
Apuntes de Psicología	No	No	No
Avances en salud mental relacional	No	Yes	No
Electronic journal of research in educational psychology / Revista Electrónica de Investigación Psicoeducativa y Psicopedagógica	Yes	Yes	No
Estudios de Sociolingüística	No	No	No
Intangible capital	Yes	Yes	Yes
International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology *	Yes	Yes	Yes
Papeles del Psicólogo*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Psicología Política	No	No	No
Psicología.com	No	Yes	No
Psicológica*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Psicothema	No	No	Yes
Revista de Psicología del Deporte	No	No	No
Revista electrónica de motivación y emoción	No	Yes	No
Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica = International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	No	No	Yes
Spanish Journal of Psychology	No	Yes	Yes

- The journal *Estudios de Sociolingüística* only offers some full texts, as a new editor has recently arrived and with him a new distribution policy.
- Journals marked with an asterisk appear in Scopus as “OA registered”.
- Journals marked in yellow are included among the best in Psychology.

Most of the journals in table 4 (12 titles) require authors to transfer to them all rights on printing and reproduction. Others do not mention anything regarding *copyright* and only one, *Intangible capital*, appears as a real Open Access journal: it offers full text, authors do not

pay for publishing, there is a *Creative Commons* licence for each article and the mentioned journal endorses the OA movement principle of accessibility to research results.

In four journals, the author pays for being published, either a quantity for each page published (that is the case of *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology* or *Psicothema*), or part of the costs of translation into English (*Psicológica*), or for publishing the article in another place (*Estudios de Sociolingüística*).

With regard to the application of publishing management systems by the journals in the table above, such as *Open Journal System* or *BePress*, it must be said that most of them (11) still do not use any. The remaining journals do employ one, although not in all phases of the publishing process. Some of the functions employed by all of them are the submission of originals through the system and the follow up of the article in order to know at which phase of the publishing management process it is situated.

To sum up, we can talk about a poor approach to the OA movement and an underutilization of the web to disseminate the scientific contents of journals. Nevertheless, this is not a situation that affects only Spanish journals of the area studied. To illustrate this point, if data from the Psychology journals included in Scopus are observed, 38% have electronic ISSN, and only 4% of the total of journals of the area is described as OA registered which means that they are a minority and represent a timid inclination towards this movement.

Table 5.
Data for Psychology journals in Scopus.

Total journals in Scopus	23748
Current journals in Scopus	16634
No OA	15512
OA registered	1070
DOAJ	15
OA but not registered	37
Total Psychology journals in Scopus	1596
No OA	1538
OA but not registered	2
OA registered	56
Total Psychology journals in Scopus	1596
Without electronic ISSN	992
With electronic ISSN	604
Total Spanish Psychology journals in Scopus	10

5. Internationality of scientific boards and authorship

Two of the criteria used to measure the internationality of scientific publications, apart from their presence in international databases already mentioned, are related to the number of works included from authors of different countries, to the criteria of publication of the

journal, and to the number of foreign members of the journal editorial board and/or advisory board (Buela-Casal *et al.*, 2006).

The internationality of contributions reflects the interest of the journal for authors in other countries. They select a journal to publish their works because they consider it more attractive or interesting than others of the area, which denotes an international recognition of the publication. When the number of different countries participating or the number of foreign contributions is high, it can be said that it is a journal with a marked international projection.

Table 6.
Percentage of foreign contributions in Spanish Psychology journals

Title	Internationality AU (%)
Revista de Psicopatología y Salud Mental del Niño y del Adolescente	76,47
Psicología Política	72,72
Psicología.com. Revista Electrónica de Psicología	65,38
Papeles de trabajo sobre cultura, educación y desarrollo humano (electrónica)	58,33
Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica = International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	50,00
The Spanish Journal of Psychology	48,00
Revista Electrónica de Investigación Psicoeducativa y Psicopedagógica	46,15
Revista Electrónica de Motivación y Emoción	40,00
International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology	39,28
Anales de Psicología (Ed. electrónica)	36,84
Anales de Psicología	36,84
Psicología Conductual	33,33
Cognitiva	33,33
Cuadernos de Psicología del Deporte	32,00
Psicológica	29,62
Psicológica (Ed. Electrónica)	29,62
Revista de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología	29,16
Revista de Psicología Social (Ed. Electrónica)	27,27
Revista de Psicología Social	27,27
Revista de Historia de la Psicología	24,07
Revista de Psicología del Deporte	22,72
Anuario de Psicología	22,22
Revista Galego-Portuguesa de Psicoloxía e Educación	21,42
Ansiedad y Estrés	20,83
Siglo Cero	20,00
Infancia y Aprendizaje	18,72
Revista de Psicología del Trabajo y de las Organizaciones	18,18

Furthermore, the presence of foreign researchers on editorial boards is not very common in Spanish scientific journals, while other nationalities are usually well represented on scientific boards. This aspect is precisely the one shown in the following table.

Table 7.
Percentage of foreign specialists in scientific boards of Spanish Psychology journals

Title	Internationality CC (%)
Análisis y Modificación de Conducta	85,71
The Spanish Journal of Psychology	78,26
Revista de Psicología Social (Ed. Electrónica)	76,47
Revista de Psicología Social	76,47
Revista de Historia de la Psicología	75
Psicología Conductual	66,66
Papeles de trabajo sobre cultura, educación y desarrollo humano (electrónica)	55,55
Adicciones. Revista de Sociodrogalcohol	51,16
Faísca. Revista de Altas Capacidades	50
Motricidad. European Journal of Human Movement	48
Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología del Ejercicio y el Deporte	46,75
Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica = International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	43,13
Revista Galego-Portuguesa de Psicoloxía e Educación	41,86
Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica	40,65
Psicología Política	40
Revista de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología	37,03
Cuadernos de Psicología del Deporte	34,78
Ansiedad y Estrés	32
Psicológica	28,31
Psicológica (Ed. Electrónica)	28,31
Estudios de Psicología	27,02
Anuario de Psicología	26,86
Infancia y Aprendizaje	24,19
Psicothema	22,61
Clínica y Salud	22,22
Cognitiva	21,62
Revista de Psicopatología y Salud Mental del Niño y del Adolescente	19,23

Taking into consideration both tables (Tables 6 and 7), there are 15⁶ journals that show a high percentage of international contribution, as well as a high percentage of foreign members on their scientific boards. This means that they could be considered as clearly international, even more if we combine this result with other criteria such as visibility in international databases or impact. In fact, six of the journals included in the following table (marked with an asterisk) are also on the list that collects the best Spanish Psychology journals according to the global evaluation that has been proposed.

Table 8.
Most international journals according to authorship and scientific boards

Title	Internationality AU (%)	Internationality CC (%)
Psicología Política	72,72	40,00
Papeles de trabajo sobre cultura, educación y desarrollo humano (electrónica)	58,33	55,55
Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica = International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*	50,00	43,13
The Spanish Journal of Psychology	48,00	78,26
Psicología Conductual*	33,33	66,66
Cuadernos de Psicología del Deporte	32,00	34,78
Psicológica	29,62	28,31
Psicológica (Ed. Electrónica)	29,62	28,31
Revista de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología*	29,16	37,03
Revista de Psicología Social (Ed. Electrónica)	27,27	76,47
Revista de Psicología Social*	27,27	76,47
Revista de Historia de la Psicología	24,07	75,00
Anuario de Psicología	22,22	26,86
Revista Galego-Portuguesa de Psicoloxía e Educación	21,42	41,86
Ansiedad y Estrés*	20,83	32,00
Infancia y Aprendizaje*	18,72	24,19

In the light of these numbers, it is possible to make a more detailed analysis of the correlation between a highly international scientific board and a high level of international original works secured. An advisory board with many foreign members would have, on the face of it, the ability of attracting original works from different countries, providing those specialists, who represent the scientific journal, actively promote and disseminate the publication, and consequently secure research works. An international board which is not very active will not increase significantly the number of works in which at least one of the authors is a foreigner.

⁶ One of them, *Psicológica*, has a double version -printed and electronic- with separated ISSN.

Also, it could happen that a very specialized journal, perhaps in the case of *Psicología Política*, could attract research works from other countries precisely due to its high level of specialization or to the absence of such specialized journals in other countries. In this case, it has been observed that the advisory board includes foreign experts, but they are not the majority; still, *Psicología Política* is the journal that publishes the highest number of international works.

To all these indicators of internationality, it should be added the presence of some of these journals in the “initial list” of the *European Science Foundation (ESF)* for the elaboration of the *European Reference Index for Humanities (ERIH)*. In the listing on Psychology of the ESF, five Spanish Psychology journals can be found, and those are also included in the table above, i.e. described as international journals according to the type of contributions and to the composition of their scientific boards: *The Spanish Journal of Psychology*, *Psicológica*, *Ansiedad y Estrés*, *Infancia y Aprendizaje* and *Psicothema* (ESF, 2008). As it was pointed out before, the last one is a highly recognized journal in Spain which still presents a very low percentage of international contributions (15.84%) and of foreign members on its scientific board (22.61%).

The presence of these journals in the initial lists of ERIH is relevant for various reasons. Firstly, because the selection criteria are very stringent; to be part of ERIH, a journal must comply with the basic international standards for the presentation of publications, it must be present in well recognized databases (in this case *Social Sciences Citation Index* and *PsycINFO*), and must have a consistent evaluation system (not necessarily the widely used peer review⁷). Secondly, because it is a selection by groups of experts of the best journals of each country ; although this selection process is not free of criticism. Thirdly, the result from the initial lists will be a European product, with a very relevant international projection that could become a reference for European quality journals.

It is also necessary to add that the journals included in the lists have a category assigned (A, B or C). All Spanish Psychology journals included in this list have been classified as C, which represents the level least international of journals, even if we are talking about high quality publications. The definitions offered by ESF on the three categories are the following:

1. Journals category A: i.e. high-ranking international publications with a very strong reputation among researchers of the field in different countries, regularly cited all over the world.
2. Journals category B: i.e. standard international publications with a good reputation among researchers of the field in different countries.
3. Journals category C: research journals with an important local / regional significance in Europe, occasionally cited outside the publishing country though their main target group is the domestic academic community.

⁷ This is the reason why the journal *Psicothema* is included. Even if it has no external reviewers according to our systems of evaluation, DICE and RESH; it complies with other quality criteria applied.

Conclusions

As in other areas, there are a huge number of scientific journals on Psychology published in Spain. In real terms, most journals follow international publishing conventions and watch for the timeliness of publication.

Approximately, a third part of journals are well represented in international databases. However, a great number of them should make an effort in order to be visible for the international community.

Taking into account six quality criteria, there are 25-30 high level or competitive journals.

Although online journals are increasing, a cautious attitude towards OA is observed in Spanish Psychology journals. None of the routes (green, gold or platinum) is relevant in analyzing them. According to the “internationality” of Psychology as a scientific domain, journals must make an effort to include foreign members in their advisory or scientific boards in order to attract papers from other countries. Around 20 journals have good levels of foreign authors and advisors.

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